

In the Description:

Please amend the last paragraph on page 5 (extending to the top of page 6), as shown below:

The sound pickup system is preferably completely grounded via a human grounding point by inlaying a ground wire 34 in chinrest 42. The preferred inlay wire 34 is a three inch length of 10 gauge copper wire, but conductors of other sizes or materials may be used without exceeding the scope of the invention. This eliminates background electrical interference, improving sound quality. For example, the chinrest body may be carved from ebony, rosewood or other hardwood or molded from plastic or other composite material, while the inlay 34 is copper metal or other conductive material. For example, a 10 gauge copper wire is used to create a grounding inlay which is glued into a grounding inlay mortice so that the left post of the inlay intersects the output jack hole to establish the grounding contact point on the metal housing of the output jack. The grounding inlay running along the top ridge of the chinrest eliminates background electrical interference when touched by the chin as in play while holding the instrument between the chin and the shoulder. As illustrated in the Figures, and especially Figure 14, the inlay 34 extends along a portion of a top surface of the chinrest body, near an outer edge of the chinrest body wherein the inlay will likely be contacted by the user's chin. A second human grounding point may be established at the string(s) by connecting a grounding wire (not shown) to the string(s) or fine tuner(s)—a technique commonly used in electric guitars. The second grounding point maintains the sound pickup system in a grounded condition when the instrument is being held in hand and no contact is being made with the chinrest ground wire.

Please amend the last paragraph of page 3 (extending to the top of page 4) as follows:

Referring to the figures, there are shown some, but not the only, embodiments of the invented sound pickup system. The preferred embodiment adapts a conventional violin or viola chinrest to incorporate a sound pickup system. The invention may also be incorporated into the tailpiece of a string instrument, such as a violin, viola, cello, bass, guitar, or mandolin. In a string instrument having a chinrest and tailpiece, components may be incorporated into both. By incorporating sound pickup, volume and sensitivity control, and grounding in a mounting device that is already attached to the instrument, the invented sound pickup system is attached to the instrument with much less impact on sound creation than with prior devices. This also minimizes the need to permanently or temporarily alter the body (B) of the instrument (I) in any way—minor modifications to the bridge and/or tailpiece, but not the body (B) may be required. The invention minimizes extraneous mass or pressure being place on the instrument and eliminates the necessity to alter the body of the instrument in any way. See Figure 14.